

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

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APPROVED BY C:JKELLY

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P 062357Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 133130

EXDIS FOR COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT BONN 9107 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BRASILIA

BUENOS AIRES RIO DE JANEIRO DATED 6 JUN 75

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 09107

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, BR, GW

SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN-GERMAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT

REF: A) BRASILIA 4434; B) BONN 9076

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH ECON/COMM MIN JUNE 5
AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY HERMES
CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD BEEN THE SOURCE OF THE PRESS
BRIEFING MENTIONED IN BONN'S 9076. WHILE HE HAD NOT
READ ALL OF THE REPORTING BASED ON HIS BRIEFING,
HE WANTED TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT REFERENCES TO
COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS WHICH WERE HIGH-LIGHTED IN
THE PRESS WERE NOT MENTIONED BY HIM DURING HIS
BRIEFING. IN FACT HE SAID HE HAD EMPHASIZED TO THE
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PRESS THAT COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS HAD NOT ENTERED

INTO OUR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE BRAZILIAN DEAL AND THAT WE WERE CONCERNED WITH SECURITY RATHER THAN COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS. HE JUDGED FROM HIS OWN PERUSAL OF THE PRESS THAT HIS GUIDANCE HAD NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE PRESS.

2. HERMES EXPRESSED ANNOYANCE OVER THE FUEL WHICH WAS BEING GIVEN TO THIS MATTER BY ALLEGED LEAKS IN WASHINGTON. HE SAID THE CONSEQUENCES OF ALL THIS PUBLICITY COULD BE MOST EMBARRASSING FOR THE FRG. HE ANTICIPATED THE POSSIBILITY OF PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS AND CRITICISM OF THE SCHMIDT GOVERNMENT. HE THOUGHT THE OPPOSITION MIGHT WELL ATTACK THE GOVERNMENT FOR ALLOWING ITSELF TO GET INTO THIS KIND OF CONTROVERSY WITH ITS MAJOR ALLY, NOT TO MENTION THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ACCUSED OF FAILURE TO DEFEND GERMAN INTERESTS IN DEALING WITH THE NPT.

3. HE RECALLED THAT THERE HAD BEEN EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND THE FRG CONCERNING THIS TRANSACTION. THE LEAKS THAT HAD OCCURRED COULD ONLY BE DETRIMENTAL TO OUR EFFORTS TO ARRANGE FOR A SUPPLIER CONFERENCE. IF THE FRENCH WERE BROUGHT INTO THE CONTROVERSY HE DOUBTED THAT IT WOULD MAKE THE FRENCH MORE RESPONSIVE; THE CONTRARY MIGHT BE THE CASE.

4. HERMES TOLD US THAT THE AGREEMENT WOULD INDEED BE SIGNED DURING THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT SIGNATURE OF THE AGREEMENT COMMITTED THE FRG TO NO PARTICULAR CONTRACT. EACH CONTRACT WOULD HAVE TO BE ASSESSED ON ITS OWN MERITS AS IT IS NEGOTIATED.

5. WE MENTIONED THE PNE QUESTION RAISED IN BRASILIA'S 4434. HERMES SAID THAT THE AGREEMENT, BY ITS OWN TERMS, PRECLUDES THE USE OF ANY MATERIALS OR TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIED UNDER THE AGREEMENT FOR NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS AND THIS UNDERTAKING IS SUBJECT TO CONFIDENTIAL

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SAFEGUARDS. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE FRG HAD FOLLOWED-UP IN BRASILIA EARLIER BRAZILIAN STATEMENTS ON PNES AND PRIDEFULLY POINTED TO THE FACT THAT SILVERA'S JUNE 3 STATEMENT WAS ENTIRELY IN LINE WITH FRG THINKING. THIS WOULD SEEM TO CONFIRM BRASILIA'S SPECULATION THAT THE FRG PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S RECENT STATEMENTS.

HILLENBRAND
UNQUOTE
KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS, FISSIONABLE MATERIALS TRANSFER
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE133130
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JKELLY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750199-0084
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750672/aaaacnxu.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 BRASILIA 4434, 75 BONN 9076
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRAZILIAN-GERMAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT
TAGS: TECH, BR, GE
To: LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006